Message Text

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PAGE 01 KADUNA 00874 141840Z ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ABUD, AFSP, OGEN, NI

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ LETTER RE: AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

FOR H, AF/EX, AND AF/W

- 1. WE RECEIVED A LETTER TODAY FROM CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ DATED JUNE 29 AND ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. THE LETTER CONCERNS HIS PROPOSAL TO SET ASIDE FUNDS IN NEXT YEAR'S AUTHORIZATION BILL TO PURCHASE A REPRESENTATIVE RANGE OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS FOR CIRCULATION TO THE AMERICAN STAFF.
- 2. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ STATES QUOTE ALTHOUGH I HAVE REQUESTED OPINIONS FROM EACH U.S. EMBASSY, I BELIEVE THAT YOUR REACTION TO USCH LEGISLATION WOULD BE QUITE HELPFUL. UNQUOTE. THE CONGRESSMAN WANTS ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:
- (A) FROM WHOM DO YOU REQUEST FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF U.S. DAILY NEWSPAPERS?
- (B) HOW MANY REQUEST HAVE YOU MADE? HAVE SUCH REQUESTS EVER BEEN REFUSED?
- (C) HOW SOON AFTER PUBLICATION DATE ARE U.S. DAILY NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE TO YOUR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS? (D) HOW ARE U.S. DAILY NEWSPAPERS MADE AVAILABLE TO

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FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AT YOUR CONSULATE OFFICE? (FOR EXAMPLE, ARE U.S. DAILY NEWSPAPERS MADE AVAILABLE IN OFFICE LIBRARIES, OR ARE THEY SIMPLY DISTRIBUTED TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL?

- (E) WOULD YOU RECOMMEND INCREASED FUNDING FOR U.S. DAILY NEWSPAPERS AT FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS?
- (F) WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL

FUND (SEPARATE FROM EXISTING DISCRETIONARY FUNDS)
SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING U.S. DAILY
NEWSPAPERS?
(G) HOW MANY U.S. CITIZENS ARE EMPLOYED BY YOUR CONSULATE
OFFICE (INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND
TECHNICAL, AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL)?

3. WHILE WE ARE QUITE WILLING TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY STANDARD GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO WHAT WE ASSUME IS A MASS MAILING. LAKE

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